

My name is Dave Cavanaugh and I live at 4008 Fort Worth Avenue

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Fort Ward Management Plan.

- 1. I urge the City Council to support staff recommendations to increase funding that will restore the natural beauty of the park. This includes removing the old maintenance yard and restoring the area for park purposes. As a personal note I would also like to see the large unsightly dumpster along the circular road removed.**
- 2. *The recommendations to review and update the current Memorandum of Understanding should be rejected. Instead, management of the original 35 acre historic park and museum should be streamlined to improve accountability. One office should be funded by the City Council to operate and manage Fort Ward Park and Museum.***

The MOU has not worked in the past and has contributed to underfunding and mistrust of City officials and staff.

- 3. The City Council should adopt the staff recommendation to create a stakeholders group to develop an interpretive plan. The stakeholders group should be tasked with:**
 - a. Reviewing the current interpretive plan;**
 - b. Developing an interpretive plan that includes both the museum and historical elements in the park; and**
 - c. Preparing recommendations to be forward to the Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria for action.**
- 4. The City Council should support staff recommendations protecting and marking known burial sites including the Shorts/Stewart home site, Seminary School site and the Cedar trace.**
- 5. *The staff and management report overlooked the amphitheater; an underutilized facility. Recommend the City consider funding a study to update, modify or improve utilization of the amphitheater allowing year around use and providing additional space for exhibits, meeting rooms and community events.***

- 6. Contrary to staff recommendations, the City Council should approve appointment of an advisory group to oversee implementation of the management plan.**

Previous mismanagement of the park raises legitimate concerns regarding implementation of the management plan recommendations.

- 7. The City should consider incorporating the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery into the park, be included as part of any interpretive plan and recognized by the City as a historic and commemorative site.**

The private Oakland Baptist Cemetery is the resting place of several first generation African Americans that settled at the abandon Fort after the Civil War. Their legacy and how they handled the social and cultural changes that occurred after the War is a compelling American story that can and should be retold at Fort Ward.

Thank You

**Remarks on the Proposed Fort Ward Park and Museum Management Plan
by Joseph Glenn Eugster
January 24, 2015**

I am Joseph Glenn Eugster. Thank you for your interest and support in Fort Ward Park. I'm here to ask you for your help with the proposed Management Plan for Fort Ward Park and Museum.

Make no mistake, everyone involved with the park and this effort believes that Fort Ward is one of the City of Alexandria's assets. Everyone believes that the activities that currently take place in the park should continue. However, considerable concern exists about what future development might be proposed.

The plan has several serious flaws that need to be quickly fixed before you act on it.

Please give the plan a chance of succeeding so that the wounds created by past mistakes can be healed, divisions between public servants and the communities they serve can be removed, and we can as citizens of one city begin to implement this plan.

The key actions needed to repair the plan are:

1. Complete research on locating the bodies of those buried within the park.

The map that will be used to guide ground-disturbing activities is fundamentally flawed. It does not include spatial information on: 1) the graves that were identified by the city in the 1990's through oral history interviews; 2) graves from any new oral history interviews; correspondence between and with city officials on graves in the park (i.e. Boothe letter). Information from oral histories and fact-finding from city files and records must be included before the ground disturbance map is complete.

2. Redesign two of the storm water projects within the park. The ravine and Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery projects are proposed within cemeteries and, or know burial areas. The proposals developed by the city and your consultant were not guided by accurate research information. They also did not include input from the descendants of the Fort Ward African American community and the Oakland Baptist Church. City staff working collaboratively with these groups should jointly develop alternatives that will manage park runoff and protect important historic and cultural values.

3. Redesign the process for assessing new development on archaeology. Future decision making relies on an "iterative process" for proposing development and then checking for archaeology. Past actions, especially within and around the maintenance yard, have proven that the iterative approach doesn't work. Forcing or trying to fit projects into sacred and sensitive areas is a formula for more conflict between communities and the city. Also, the "protocol for ground-disturbing activities" was developed by Office of Historic Alexandria managers unilaterally. The intent of the advisory group was to have the President of the Descendants Society work with the Fort Ward Park liaison to develop procedures that make sense and everyone can agree on. That did not happen and it needs to.

These tasks can be completed within 4 to 6 months provided that there is some urgency to do this work.

Please do not approve the plan today but rather request the City Manager and department heads, in direct cooperation with the descendants of the Fort Ward community, to fix these flaws in the plan and re-present it to you. Such action will demonstrate the city's commitment to the park and the communities it serves.

Jackie Henderson

8
1-24-15

From: CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 24, 2015 8:10 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #65041: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council No descriptive text provided

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 65041.

Request Details:

- Name: LaDonna Sanders
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: No Phone
- Email: No Email
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: No description provided.
- Attachment: [NAACP Letter Ft Ward.docx](#)
- Expected Response Date: Monday, February 2

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

This is an automated email notification of a *Call.Click.Connect.* request. Please do not reply to this email.



Alexandria Branch #7043

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Post Office Box 1740 * Alexandria, VA 22313 * Phone: (703) 684-6190

www.naacpalexandriava.org * email: naacpalx@erols.com

President: LaDonna J. Sanders Secretary: Myra Addison

The Honorable Mayor William D. Euille
Members of the Alexandria City Council
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of City Council,

I am writing to express concern regarding the passage of the proposed Management Plan for the Fort Ward Park and Museum without addressing the suggested recommendations from the African American Descendants Society, members of Oakland Baptist Church, and Seminary Civic Association. We understand there have been many years spent conducting archeological investigations, planning for future usage of the park and preservation of the natural environment, however the NAACP would like to request that as part of the passage of the plan, additional time be invested in the preservation and research of the rich historical resources located in the park.

On January 8, 2015, the Alexandria NAACP Executive Board met with members of the Fort Ward African American Descendants Society to discuss the organizations concerns regarding the City's proposed Management Plan for Fort Ward Park and Museum. The members conveyed concerns regarding the Management Plans failure to adequately address the impact storm water drain off was currently having on existing burial grounds, concern that the descendants familial history had not been used as an asset in the research, and the plan failed to identify a process to identify unmarked graves prior to beginning of construction.

The NAACP believes taking the additional time to work collaboratively with the descendants, Seminary Civic Association, and the Oakland Baptist Church to address the concerns brought forth would be advantageous to all parties. The end result of having a space that tells the most accurate account of life at the Fort, that demonstrates a high regard for the contributions of African Americans to Fort Ward, and that affords an opportunity for recreational activities would be of value to Alexandria for many years to come.

City Council has demonstrated a pattern of support of preserving African American history through projects like Freedman Cemetery, African American Heritage Park, and Charles Houston Hall of Fame. It is in that same spirit of support that I urge you to amend the proposed Fort Ward Park and Museum Management Plan to include provisions brought forth by the descendants and community stakeholders.

Respectfully Submitted,

LaDonna J. Sanders, President
Alexandria Branch of NAACP

8
1-24-15

Jackie Henderson

From: dacava1@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2015 11:27 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #64552: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Hopefully more readable.

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 64552.

Request Details:

- Name: Dave Cavanaugh
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-869-8362
- Email: dacava1@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Hopefully more readable.
- Attachment: [Comments 01.24.15 Public Hearing.docx](#)
- Expected Response Date: Thursday, January 22

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

This is an automated email notification of a *Call.Click.Connect.* request. Please do not reply to this email.

Draft Comments: Fort Ward Management Plan

This is a good report and the Advisory Committee should be commended for their diligent work under complex and trying circumstances. I support recommendation to make the park more attractive and improve the overall maintenance and operation of a park. There is a lot of deferred maintenance and I urge the City Council to support funding that will restore the pride and public support for Fort Ward Park and the Museum.

As a general comment, I am satisfied that known existing gravesites and those discovered later will be treated as sacred and be protected. There is a procedure that will safeguard against any ground disturbing activity that will potentially impact grave sites or other archaeological sites.

I also hope you will not impose restrictions on construction of picnic shelters, planting of trees, shrubs and bushes or other possible uses of the amphitheater. There are processes in place that can protect Fort Ward Park, hopefully by not adding unnecessary substantial cost for managing the park.

One last general comment. At the City Council meeting there was a reference to language in buried Appendix 6. Appendix 6 was not part of the final report released to the public when docketed making it impossible to determine its relevance. The language be considered for adoption should be part of the public record prior to consideration by the City Council.

I have the following observations and comments

Goal 1—Management and Funding

The Management Plan recommends continuing funding between the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA), Department of Recreation and Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA), Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (TES) and the Department of General Services (GS) for the operation and maintenance of Fort Ward Park.

This is a clumsy, inefficient way to manage and fund a 40 acre park with a variety of uses and requirements for maintaining a historic park and museum. It has not worked in the past and has contributed to a decline in the condition of the park and a mistrust of City officials. There should either be a park manager reporting to the Director Office of Historic Alexandria or a person on the City Manager's staff responsible for the operation and funding of both the park and museum. It should have separate funding in the City budget to ensure accountability. Currently inadequate funding by any of the Departments can delay needed repairs and maintenance and has contributed to the park's poor condition.

Suggest: Management of the park and museum should be *streamlined to improve accountability, foster public support from "Friends" type groups and improve and control funding for operation and maintenance. A management axiom: Divided responsibility is no responsibility.*

Goal 4-Educate and Engage Visitors-Share the Stories of Fort Ward Park

4.1 Develop a detailed Interpretive Plan for Fort Ward Park that celebrates the park's multi-faceted history

The December 3, 2014 directs "OHA to formally invite key stakeholders from the Fort Ward and Seminary African American Descendants Society, Civil War historians, naturalists, educators and community representatives to participate in a new advisory committee working on development of an interpretive plan." Further the management plan directs "The Interpretive Planning Committee would provide guidance on inclusion of interpretive elements or presentation at the park and museum".

Although OHA would be responsible for organizing the key stakeholders, it is unclear to whom recommendations would be forwarded to or whether the interpretive plan would include the museum as well as the park.

Suggest: City Council adoption of the Management Plan should clearly state the recommendations of the Advisory Group will be sent to the Director of the Office of Historic Alexandria and that the interpretation plan will cover both the park and the museum. The City should investigate ways to expand educational offerings presented at the museum and park but also through electronic media.

Goal 4.3 Reorganize and expand the museum to engage more visitors and broaden the stories told.

The Management Plan recommends creating a capital campaign to raise funds for a museum expansion. Expansion of the existing museum would renew interest in the museum and provide additional exhibit areas. However, building expansion in an historic area of the park raises other issues.

An overlooked feature in the park is the amphitheater. The amphitheater is underutilized and could be used or modified for special events, exhibits and storytelling. More thought should be given to enclosing the amphitheater to allow year around use and provide additional space for educational and entertainment events.

Suggest: The City consider funding a study to update, modify or improve utilization of the amphitheater for park and/or museum purposes.

Advisory Group to Oversee Implementation

The Fort Ward History Work Group recommended the City establish a citizen's advisory group to oversee implementation of the management plan. The staff dismissed the recommendation as unnecessary. Instead they recommend the status of implementation be discussed at involved commission meeting, included in annual reports, occasional meeting to brief public groups.

The staff recommendations are totally insufficient. Basically they are briefings or reports after the fact. There is no effective way to influence the setting of priorities or implementation of the management plan.

Although pleased with City staff involved in pursuing a management plan, there is a long list of distrust of City officials in managing the park. The fenced in maintenance yard, the location of dumpsters in the park for transfer of garbage, the installation of rumble strips on the circular road that made it difficult for people in wheel chairs to navigate, the placement of an old dilapidated security shelter at the main entrance (later removed), no mow areas that made the

park look unkempt have contributed a lack of public confidence and trust. At one point City officials were unaware the park was on the list of National Historic Parks.

Mismanagement of the park, especially involving 5 different departments or entities, and inadequate funding remain real issues. Continuing to rely on a MOU to fund and shape policies for operation and maintenance of the park when it has not worked in the past is ludicrous.

I suggest the City Council approve appointment of an advisory group to oversee the setting of priorities, funding and improvements in management of the park and museum.

Oakland Baptist Cemetery

The Oakland Baptist Cemetery is the likely resting place of several former slaves living at the abandon Fort and later worked as domestics and laborers helping rebuild the Seminary. The location of the cemetery within the community and the abiding faith which sustained them after the Civil War is a living testament to us and should be protected and preserved.

Although surrounded on three sides by the park and occupying a prominent location in the park, the cemetery is private and maintained by the Oakland Baptist Church and descendants.

Suggest consideration be given to incorporating the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery into the park, be part of any interpretive plan and maintained by the City as a commemorative site.

Thank You

Jackie Henderson

8
1-24-15

From: William Euille
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2015 9:22 PM
To: Mark Jinks; James Spengler; Lance Mallamo; City Council; Yon Lambert
Subject: Fort Ward Park Management Plan

Mark,
In advance of the public hearing on this Saturday, I would appreciate staff giving thought/consideration to the following as a pathway forward, in addressing the concerns of the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery descendants:

- 1) The creation of an Implementation Monitoring Group to provide oversight and protection as the planned work, both storm water, park and historic preservation proceeds
- 2) This group should have a City Council Member designated by the Mayor to be a liaison
- 3) Further, since much of the planned work going forward is so sensitive, and there exist a serious "lack of trust" factor, it is imperative, that a work session with the citizens, staff and council take place after the public hearing, to allow for a full discussion as to the issues, and potential solutions.

We have invested too much time and resources, both staff and monetary, to not end up with a win-win outcome. Citizens should not feel that government has failed to listen and be responsive. This project has the potential to be an attractive tourism venue as well.

Let's talk.

Thanks,
Bill

Sent from my iPhone

8
1-24-15

Jackie Henderson

From: William Euille
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2015 4:01 PM
To: Jackie Henderson
Cc: Allison Silberberg; Del Pepper; Jane McDonald; John Chapman; Justin Wilson; LaShawn Timmons; Lillian Thompson; Mark McHugh; Nancy Lacey; Nancy Lavalley; Paul Smedberg; Timothy Lovain; Wendy Donohue; Mark Jinks; James Banks; Laura Triggs; Emily Baker; Debra Collins; James Spengler
Subject: Re: Ft. Ward Memo for January 24 Public Hearing Meeting

Thanks Mark for the memo reflecting suggested changes to the process moving forward. I concur with many of the changes moving forward, however, I still have concern about NOT establishing an Implementation Planning Group at this time, since there are three city agencies participating in the process already. The problem, there NEED to be an overseer to ensure that all three agencies are working together in balance, and that not one agency is the driver. Certainly, we can have more discussion on Saturday. I will encourage my Colleagues to move forward on the changes in a positive way.
Bill
Sent from my iPhone

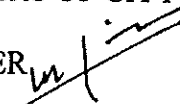
> On Jan 23, 2015, at 3:47 PM, "Jackie Henderson" <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov> wrote:
>
> Good afternoon—
>
> Attached is a memorandum from Mark Jinks re: Fort Ward Park and Museum Management Plan, for tomorrow's public hearing meeting.
>
>
> Jackie
> <Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan - Proposed Draft Amendments.pdf>

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 23, 2015

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MARK B. JINKS, ACTING CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: FORT WARD PARK AND MUSEUM AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN:
PROPOSED DRAFT AMENDMENTS

ISSUE: Should the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan be amended to include: potential new introductory language, the addition of notification procedures, consideration of an ongoing citizen implementation monitoring group, and should a post-public hearing work session be held?

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Adopt the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan related recommendations contained in the January 7, 2015 docket memorandum,
- (2) Adopt the new plan introductory language detailed below,
- (3) Adopt notification procedures (Attachment 1) to be included in the "*Guidelines for Ground Disturbance*", and
- (4) Direct staff to schedule a post-adoption Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan work session with Council, stakeholders, and staff.

BACKGROUND: At, and subsequent to, its January 13, 2015 meeting, City Council members requested staff's response on a number of items related to the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan, including: (a) potential new introductory language, (b) revised notification procedures as an amendment to the *Guidelines for Ground Disturbance* procedures, (c) consideration of an ongoing citizen implementation monitoring group, and (d) consideration of scheduling a work session with Council, stakeholders, and staff.

DISCUSSION:

a. Draft Introductory Language

Vice Mayor Silberberg initiated a discussion at the January 13 Council meeting about including an introductory statement on the plan to acknowledge the “hallowed grounds” within Fort Ward Park. In response to this concept and to the subsequent Council discussion, staff drafted the following introductory statement for consideration:

Fort Ward Park is home to significant historic and cultural resources, including sacred burial grounds of the families that lived there. The City of Alexandria recognizes that these sacred places and any other burial sites identified in the future shall be protected from disturbance and treated with respect and dignity. The Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan provides a sensitive approach to acknowledging, protecting and interpreting the resources on this property, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, along with guidelines for managing the area’s natural resources and compatible passive recreation uses.

The above draft language was shared with stakeholders on January 20, and as of mid-afternoon on January 23, no feedback had been received.

b. Revised Attachment 5

Pursuant to discussion at a January 5 meeting with representatives from the Fort Ward and Seminary African American Descendants Society, Oakland Baptist Church and Seminary Hill Civic Association, RPCA staff drafted additional notification procedures to be included in the “Guidelines for Ground Disturbance” addendum to the annual Interdepartmental Memorandum of Understanding. The added notification procedures (Attachment 1), commit City staff to ensuring the three represented groups noted above are aware in advance of any ground disturbing activities occurring at Fort Ward.

c. Ongoing Citizen Monitoring Group

Following City Council’s January 13 meeting, staff was asked by the Mayor to consider the idea of creation of an Implementation Monitoring Group to provide oversight and protection as the planned stormwater, historic preservation and park work proceeds.

The Management Plan under Goal 4, Educate and Engage Visitors (page I-25), states that a short-term action priority is “to formally invite key stakeholders from the Fort Ward and Seminary African American Descendants Society, Civil War historians, naturalists, educators and community representatives to participate in a new advisory committee working on the development of an interpretive plan.” Additional members, or a change of work, can be added to this action step to accomplish plan implementation. With focus on interpretation, the group will work on the most pressing issues underlying full implementation of the plan.

In addition, the original staff memorandum included in docket materials outlines a process for ongoing community involvement through implementation of the Management Plan:

1. Regular topic at involved commission meetings;
2. Annual report and public meeting on the status of implementation;
3. Reports and meetings of the public groups created to support ongoing efforts at Fort Ward Park; and
4. Continuation of the quarterly interdepartmental meetings outlined in the MOU.

All of the major project work in implementation, such as drainage improvements, will also have a defined public process under the direction of the City Civic Engagement Policy.

With all of these engagement plans proposed, and with the existing oversight of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Historic Alexandria Resources Advisory Commission, staff does not recommend the creation of an implementation monitoring group. However, if Council believes the addition of such a group is needed, staff can bring forward for Council consideration at a later date, a separate proposal for an additional implementation monitoring group.

d. Work session with Council, stakeholders, and staff

Also after the January 13 meeting, the Mayor asked staff to consider whether or not a work session with Council, stakeholders and staff should be held in order to enable a full discussion of the issues and potential solutions. While there has been much civic engagement in the development of the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan, there are issues where further dialogue in a work session may be productive.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Revised Section of Attachment 5 related to ground disturbance

STAFF:

Emily Baker, Acting Deputy City Manager
Lance Mallamo, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria
James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA)
Yon Lambert, Acting Director, Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES)
Francine Bromberg, City Archaeologist, Office of Historic Alexandria
Laura Durham, City Open Space Coordinator, RPCA
Brian Rahal, Engineer, T&ES

Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Interdepartmental Memorandum of Understanding Guidelines for Ground Disturbance, including Process and Procedures to Protect Cultural Resources

DRAFT Addendum to Annual M.O.U. (~~August, 2014~~ January 2015)

The following definitions, process and procedures relate to any ground disturbing activities at Fort Ward Park. They apply to City employees, City contractors, and any volunteers.

I. Notification

Notify the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) 7 days in advance of the commencement of any ground disturbing activities to take place in areas on the map shaded Yellow or Red (attached).

Public nNotice of ground disturbing activities must also be posted within the park and at the Fort Ward Museum 7 days in advance of such work.

In addition to the posted public notice above, the City will provide a minimum of seven (7) days prior notice to the Fort Ward and Seminary African American Descendants Society, Oakland Baptist Church and Seminary Civic Association regarding any scheduled or anticipated ground disturbing activity through all of the following means:

1. A phone call to the designated point of contact.* The designated contact will confirm receipt of the notice and identify any concerns or questions as soon as possible, and prior to the end of the seven day period
2. An email flagged as URGENT to all identified representatives**
3. Delivery of the posted notice to the Oakland Baptist Church (3408 King Street)

*The Fort Ward and Seminary African American Descendants Society, Oakland Baptist Church and Seminary Civic Association will provide the City with a point of contact and telephone number, and notify the City immediately if the point of contact changes. ** The City will solicit, and the same groups (above) will provide, the City with a list of all those requesting email notice.

For any emergency work that may require ground disturbance (e.g., hazardous fallen tree, utility repair), notice will be provided by the same means listed above, but the seven (7) day advance requirement may be waived if health and safety of park users is of concern.

II. Definitions - Levels of Ground Disturbance

The Management Plan documents and maps the levels of ground disturbance permitted in all areas of the park based on archaeological findings and potential (See attached map).

Green Shading: Minimal Ground Disturbing Activities (aeration, stump grinding, tree planting and soft path construction) allowed. Ground disturbance is acceptable.

Green shading delineates areas where archaeological excavations have indicated that there is previous disturbance and/or low potential for significant archaeological resources to be present.

Yellow Shading: No Ground Disturbing Activities without review by the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA). Ground disturbance shall be minimized. All proposed ground disturbing activities are to be reviewed by OHA prior to start of work. OHA will assess the impact of the proposed ground disturbance on potential archaeological resources based on the location and scope of the project and determine what is required to preserve cultural resources. OHA will require and implement preservation actions, if needed.

Yellow shading delineates areas where concentrations of artifacts (relating to Native American, Civil War and African American periods of use and occupation) were discovered and where African American structures and households were present.

Red Shading: No Ground Disturbing Activities allowed without archaeological review and investigation by OHA. Ground disturbance shall be avoided, if possible. All proposed ground disturbing activities are to be reviewed by OHA prior to start of work. Acceptable types of ground-disturbing activities in red shaded areas include interpretive elements (signs, etc.) and those necessary for protection of environmental or cultural resources, including stormwater management. OHA will assess the impact of the proposed ground disturbance on potential archaeological resources based on the location and scope of the project and determine what is required to preserve cultural resources. OHA will implement preservation actions, if needed. For any ground disturbance greater than six inches (6"), implementation of preservation measures will be required. For ground disturbance less than six inches (6"), OHA must be on site prior to the commencement of activity to conduct a preliminary assessment of any potential impact to resources and to determine if preservation measures need to be implemented.

Red shading delineates areas where cemeteries or graves of the African American community are present or possibly present, and where earthworks relating to the Civil War fortifications exist.

III. Processes and Procedures for the Protection of Cultural Resources - Levels of Ground Disturbance

- Notify OHA a minimum of seven (7) days before work is to begin in Yellow Shaded and Red Shaded areas.

- Courtesy notification preferred for work to take place in Green Shaded areas.
- OHA will review the proposed work site and, when necessary, clearly work with RPCA and T&ES to mark off areas where ground disturbance may occur in accordance with the Management Plan.
- All capital projects (i.e., planned site improvements) shall include funding and related resources for archaeology in the project timeline and budget. Regardless of location, all ground disturbers must be made aware of the **Call If Finds** requirement in Section IV—Responsibilities of Ground Disturbers, no matter how small the ground-disturbing activity.
- There will be no disturbance to identified burial locations; all burials will be protected in place. If evidence of burials is discovered during any ground disturbing activities, OHA will immediately update the map showing levels of ground disturbance to ensure that the area of the burials is shaded red. The newly discovered burials will also be protected in place.

IV Responsibilities for Ground Disturbers

- If an archaeologist is not present, call Alexandria Archaeology immediately (703-746-4399) if any buried structural remains (wall foundations, wells, privies, cisterns, etc.), bones, or concentrations of artifacts (including wood fragments) are discovered during ground disturbing activities. Work must cease in the area of the discovery until a City archaeologist comes to the site and determines the appropriate preservation action.
- For any emergency situation requiring immediate attention to ensure the safety of park visitors and staff, OHA must be contacted and alerted to the situation and necessary response.

V. Responsibilities for OHA

- Upon notification, review ground-disturbing activities to determine the need for preservation actions and the type of action that is required.
- Implement the required preservation action, which may include:
 - Monitoring ground-disturbing activities.
 - Conducting an archaeological excavation in concert with the ground disturbance.
 - Conducting an archaeological excavation prior to the ground-disturbing activities.

January 24, 2015

Good Morning. I'm Janice Magnuson. I was a member of the Fort Ward Advisory Group. Month after month we listened to City staff and consultants from Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects attempt to expand our knowledge of a neglected part of Alexandria's history.

Many of us are familiar with the role Fort Ward played during the Civil War as a vital link in the chain of 164 forts and batteries defending Washington. Many of us have walked through Fort Ward and enjoyed a picnic under the many trees.

The significance of Fort Ward has been recognized by inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Less is known about the development of an African-American community and graveyard that developed there following the Civil War.

And that's why we're here today.

The City has spent thousands of dollars on staff time and hiring of a consultant to propose best practices for discovering and protecting both marked and unmarked burials. We now have a process to move forward with all the resources and balance the many uses of the park. It's now time for all parties to come together to implement the plan in a sensitive and respectful manner. I urge you to implement this well-crafted plan.

Jackie Henderson

8
1-24-15

From: cziegler1@hotmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2014 4:23 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #63229: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council The Honorable Mayor and Members of the C

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 63229.

Request Details:

- Name: Charles Ziegler
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-370-0648
- Email: cziegler1@hotmail.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council,

Last night (December 9) I was scheduled to make a short introductory presentation to you regarding the draft Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan (item 36 on the agenda. As you know, the consideration of that item has been deferred to January. In that I will not be acting in any further capacity for the now-defunct Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group, I wanted nevertheless to transmit to you what would have been my presentation at that meeting of the City Council. I hope that it proves useful to you in your deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

Charles Ziegler
Former Chairman,
Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group

Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan
Presentation to the City Council
January, 2014 (Anticipated)

Mr. Mayor, Ms. Vice-Mayor, members of the City Council, ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Charles Ziegler, last Chairman of the Ad Hoc Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Stakeholder Advisory Group, and currently Vice President of the Friends of Fort Ward. Before proceeding with my presentation, I would like to acknowledge the thanks due to my distinguished predecessors, Linda Ries and especially Tom Fulton, who did so much to bring the Fort Ward Park and Museum Area Management Plan that you have before you to completion. As well, City staff at all levels proved to be extremely helpful and accommodating during the entire process of preparing the draft Management Plan. In particular, I would like to extend my personal thanks to Ms. Laura Durham, whose knowledge of City procedures and prompt, untiring support of the efforts of our Advisory Group greatly facilitated our work.

Rather than simply reprise the features of the draft Fort Ward Management Plan, I would instead recall for you the reasons why a management plan for Fort Ward is considered necessary in the first place. In the Fall of 2008, significant community concern became apparent in the operation of Fort Ward Park and its historical resources. These concerns included the placement of a Maintenance Yard in Fort Ward Park on top of some clearly-marked graves, without appropriate permits or consultations with citizens, which action was viewed, rightly, as a serious breach of trust between citizens and City government.

In response to citizens' concerns, a series of public meetings in the winter and early spring of 2009 was held, from the results of which the Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Department developed a matrix of community and user issues. In order to respond to the longer-term future of the park, the City Council then created an Ad Hoc Stakeholder Advisory Group to study these issues. Its report was issued in early 2011 and presented to the City Council, and was approved. A successor advisory group was established by the City Council later that year in response to a recommendation of the previous Stakeholder Advisory Group to create a such a committee to advise the City on the implementation its report's recommendations. The resulting draft Management Plan, which has been three years in gestation, is before you now, and awaits your approval, which I strongly urge.

The City Manager's memorandum of December 3, 2014 (File # 14-3417, Version 1) notes at the top of page 6 that "[t]he Chair of the FWAG made a recommendation, which the group endorsed, that City Council establish an ongoing citizen advisory group to oversee implementation of the Management Plan." I felt at that such a citizen advisory committee should be established with, for instance, a three-year renewable mandate, with quarterly meetings, and updates on planned City activities at Fort Ward Park being provided, with adequate notice to enable due consideration by the committee. However, subsequent events and further reflection have caused me to amend this view, in that I do not now believe that establishing a committee so constituted would lead to productive results at this time. Rather, I now endorse the recommendation made by the City Manager on page 6 of this memorandum as presently the best way forward.

I would like also to note that the 1982 application for the listing of Fort Ward on the National Register of Historic Places states:

Fort Ward is a 35-acre Historic Park owned and operated by the City of Alexandria, Virginia. The park is comprised of three major elements. In order of importance [emphasis added] they are:

- a) Civil War Earthen Fortifications
- b) Reproduction Period Military Buildings
- c) Recreational Facilities

During the archaeological research conducted during the last few years, a great deal has been learned about the African-American presence after the Civil War in a flourishing community known as "The Fort," on the grounds of the abandoned Fort Ward. The remnants of that community were displaced during the City's acquisition of the land for establishing Fort Ward Park, although members of that community and their descendents are still very much a part of the larger Alexandria community. Recommendations for memorializing their presence and their contributions are included in the draft Management Plan. I strongly support the appropriate protection and interpretation of the remnants of that community, with special emphasis on strict adherence to the draft Protocol for Ground Disturbing Activities, which is included in the package before you. However, in that the Civil War earthen fortifications are the most historically consequential element in Fort Ward Park, I urge that they should remain the primary focus of historical interpretation.

Thank you.

- Expected Response Date: Wednesday, December 17

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**Remarks on the Proposed Fort Ward Park and Museum Management Plan
by Joseph Glenn Eugster
January 24, 2015**

I am Joseph Glenn Eugster. Thank you for your interest and support in Fort Ward Park. I'm here to ask you for your help with the proposed Management Plan for Fort Ward Park and Museum.

Make no mistake, everyone involved with the park and this effort believes that Fort Ward is one of the City of Alexandria's assets. Everyone believes that the activities that currently take place in the park should continue. However, considerable concern exists about what future development might be proposed.

The plan has several serious flaws that need to be quickly fixed before you act on it.

Please give the plan a chance of succeeding so that the wounds created by past mistakes can be healed, divisions between public servants and the communities they serve can be removed, and we can as citizens of one city begin to implement this plan.

The key actions needed to repair the plan are:

1. Complete research on locating the bodies of those buried within the park.

The map that will be used to guide ground-disturbing activities is fundamentally flawed. It does not include spatial information on: 1) the graves that were identified by the city in the 1990's through oral history interviews; 2) graves from any new oral history interviews; correspondence between and with city officials on graves in the park (i.e. Boothe letter). Information from oral histories and fact-finding from city files and records must be included before the ground disturbance map is complete.

2. Redesign two of the storm water projects within the park. The ravine and Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery projects are proposed within cemeteries and, or know burial areas. The proposals developed by the city and your consultant were not guided by accurate research information. They also did not include input from the descendants of the Fort Ward African American community and the Oakland Baptist Church. City staff working collaboratively with these groups should jointly develop alternatives that will manage park runoff and protect important historic and cultural values.

3. Redesign the process for assessing new development on archaeology. Future decision making relies on an “iterative process” for proposing development and then checking for archaeology. Past actions, especially within and around the maintenance yard, have proven that the iterative approach doesn’t work. Forcing or trying to fit projects into sacred and sensitive areas is a formula for more conflict between communities and the city. Also, the “protocol for ground-disturbing activities” was developed by Office of Historic Alexandria managers unilaterally. The intent of the advisory group was to have the President of the Descendants Society work with the Fort Ward Park liaison to develop procedures that make sense and everyone can agree on. That did not happen and it needs to.

These tasks can be completed within 4 to 6 months provided that there is some urgency to do this work.

Please do not approve the plan today but rather request the City Manager and department heads, in direct cooperation with the descendants of the Fort Ward community, to fix these flaws in the plan and re-present it to you. Such action will demonstrate the city’s commitment to the park and the communities it serves.

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1-24-15

Jackie Henderson

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- Attachment: [NAACP Letter Ft Ward.docx](#)
- Expected Response Date: Monday, February 2

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Alexandria Branch #7043

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

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President: LaDonna J. Sanders Secretary: Myra Addison

The Honorable Mayor William D. Euille
Members of the Alexandria City Council
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of City Council,

I am writing to express concern regarding the passage of the proposed Management Plan for the Fort Ward Park and Museum without addressing the suggested recommendations from the African American Descendants Society, members of Oakland Baptist Church, and Seminary Civic Association. We understand there have been many years spent conducting archeological investigations, planning for future usage of the park and preservation of the natural environment, however the NAACP would like to request that as part of the passage of the plan, additional time be invested in the preservation and research of the rich historical resources located in the park.

On January 8, 2015, the Alexandria NAACP Executive Board met with members of the Fort Ward African American Descendants Society to discuss the organizations concerns regarding the City's proposed Management Plan for Fort Ward Park and Museum. The members conveyed concerns regarding the Management Plans failure to adequately address the impact storm water drain off was currently having on existing burial grounds, concern that the descendants familial history had not been used as an asset in the research, and the plan failed to identify a process to identify unmarked graves prior to beginning of construction.

The NAACP believes taking the additional time to work collaboratively with the descendants, Seminary Civic Association, and the Oakland Baptist Church to address the concerns brought forth would be advantageous to all parties. The end result of having a space that tells the most accurate account of life at the Fort, that demonstrates a high regard for the contributions of African Americans to Fort Ward, and that affords an opportunity for recreational activities would be of value to Alexandria for many years to come.

City Council has demonstrated a pattern of support of preserving African American history through projects like Freedman Cemetery, African American Heritage Park, and Charles Houston Hall of Fame. It is in that same spirit of support that I urge you to amend the proposed Fort Ward Park and Museum Management Plan to include provisions brought forth by the descendants and community stakeholders.

Respectfully Submitted,

LaDonna J. Sanders, President
Alexandria Branch of NAACP